



COL. JOHN ADDISON

From an original portrait in the possession of the family.

One Hundred Years Ago

OR THE

LIFE AND TIMES

OF THE REV.

WALTER DULANY ADDISON

1769-1848

COMPILED FROM ORIGINAL PAPERS IN POSSESSION
OF THE FAMILY,

BY HIS GRANDDAUGHTER,
ELIZABETH HESSELIUS MURRAY

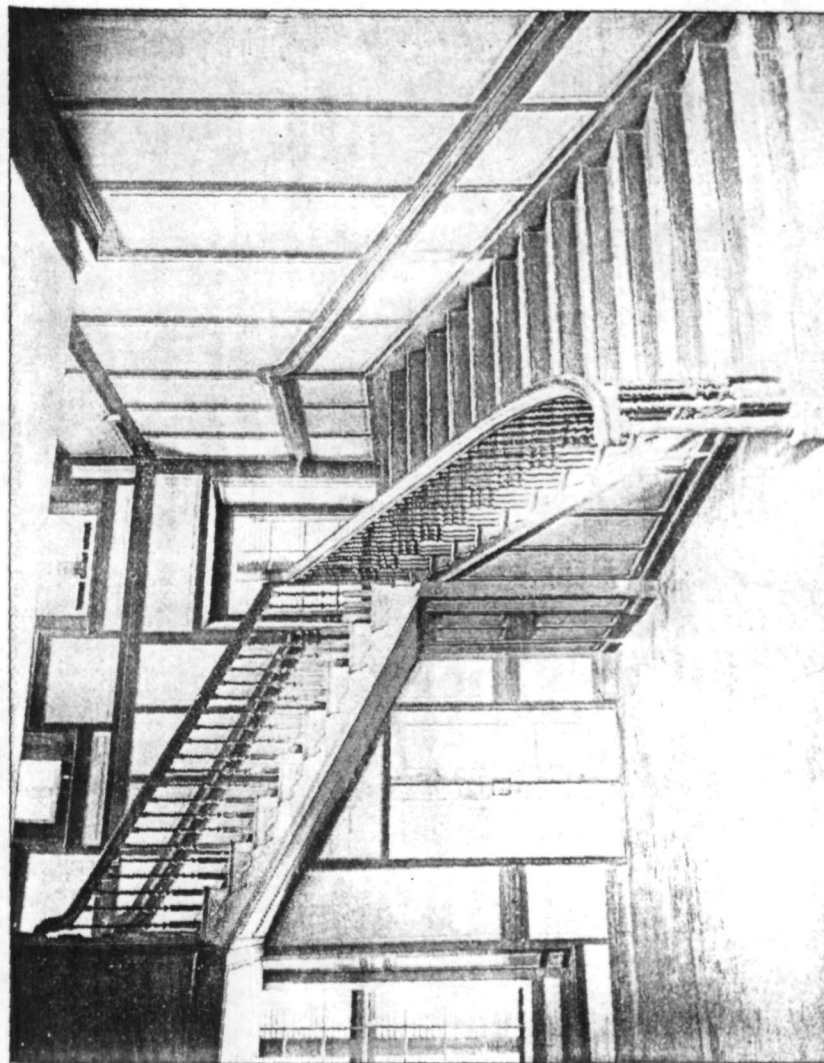
Philadelphia
GEO. W. JACOBS & CO.
1895

CHAPTER XII.

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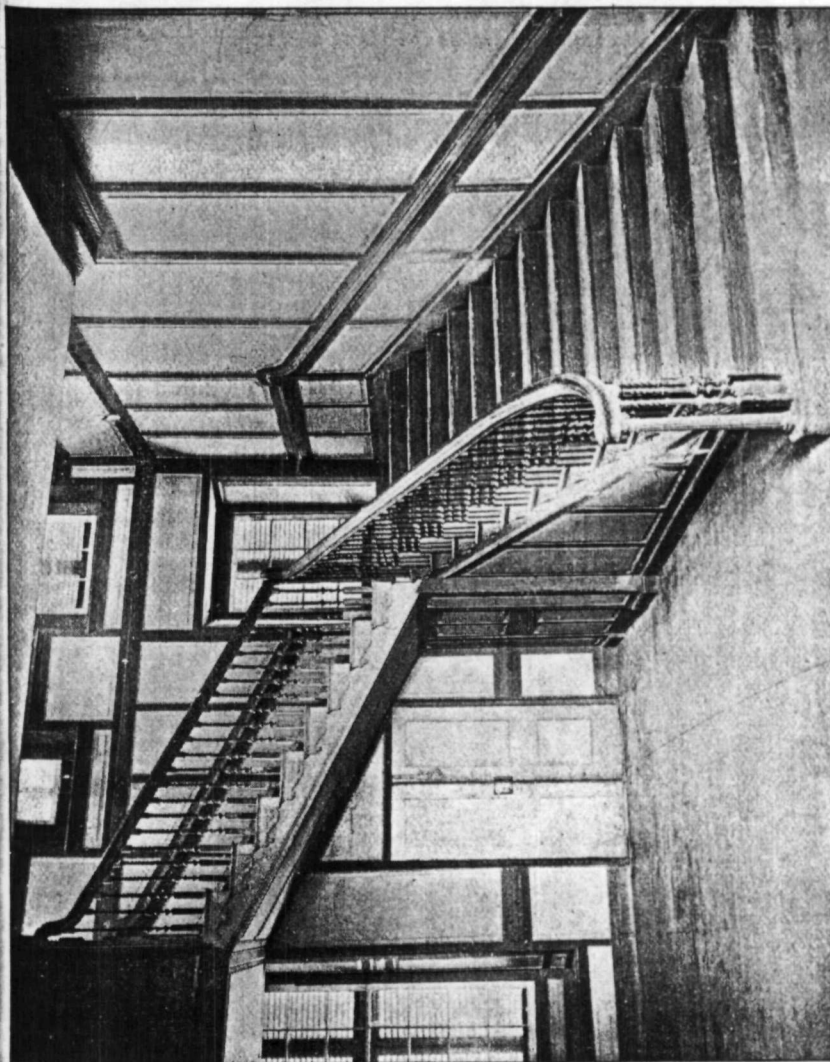
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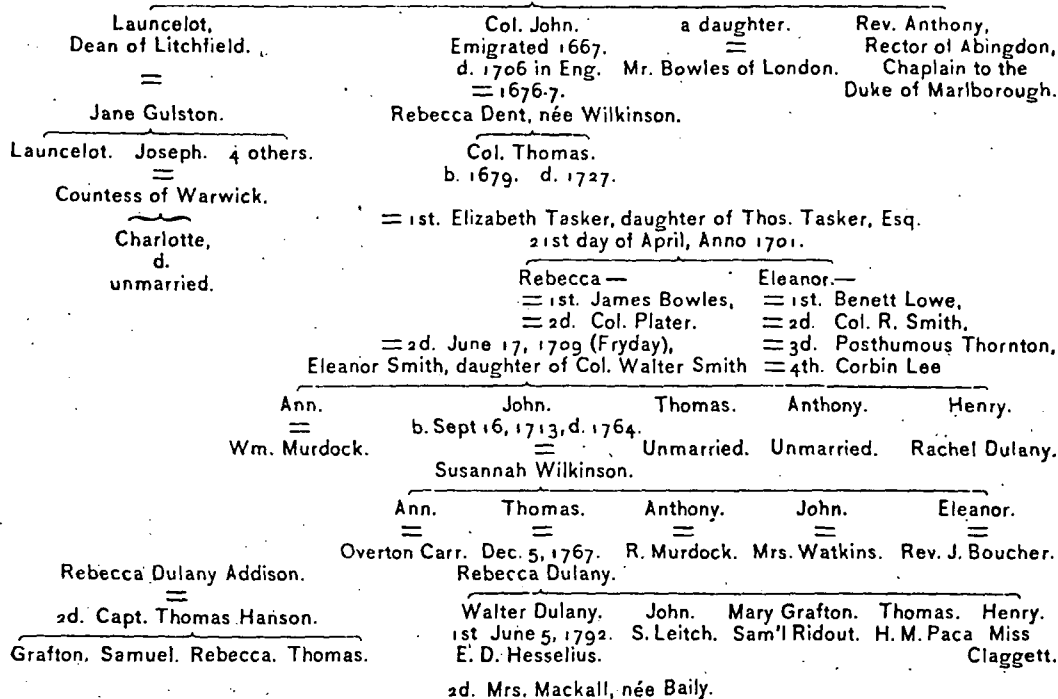


STAIRCASE AT OXON HILL.

PEDIGREE OF THE ADDISON FAMILY

From the REV. LAUNCELOT ADDISON, M. A.

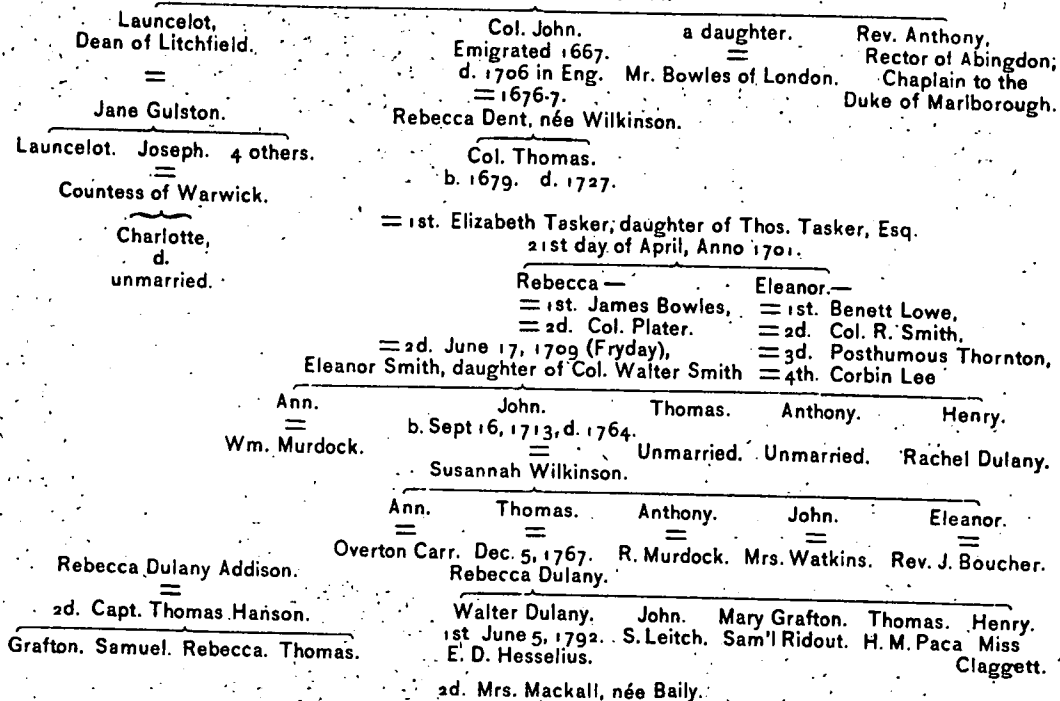
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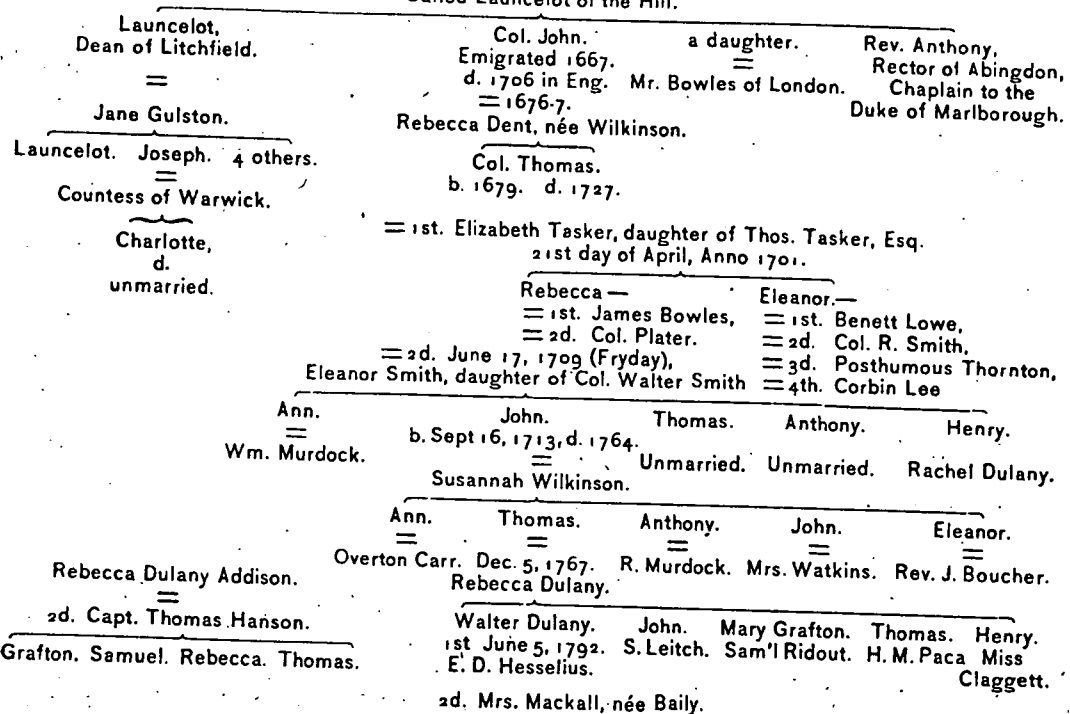
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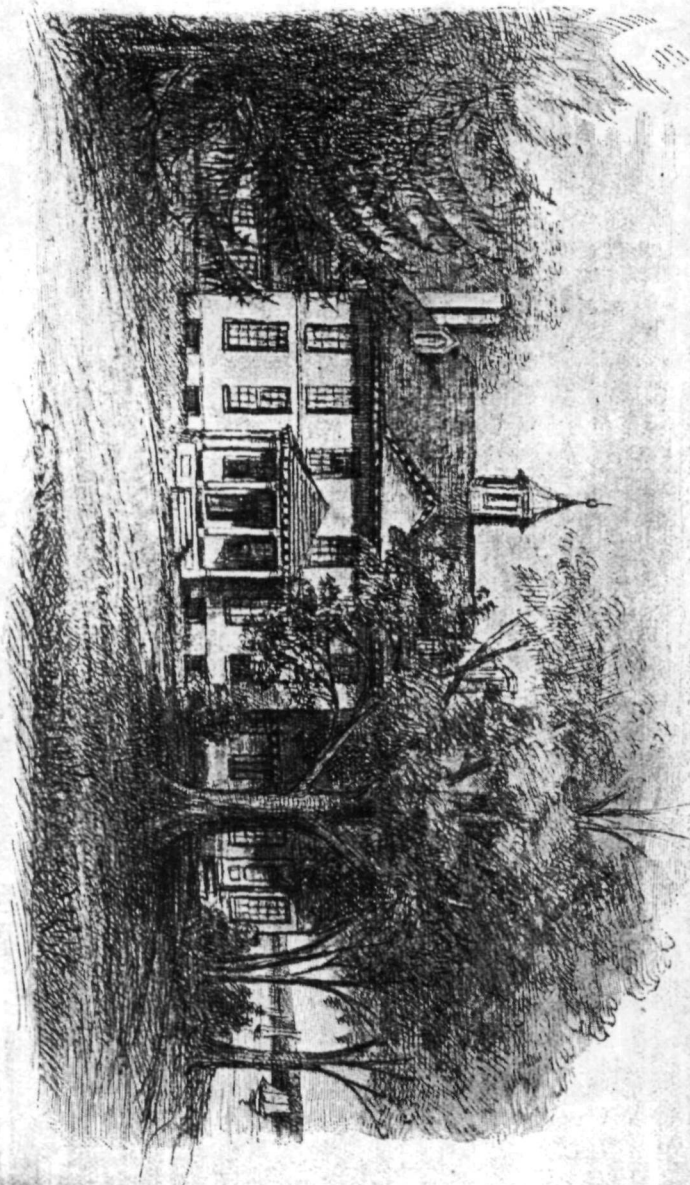
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OXON HILL MANOR HOUSE.



CHAPTER IX.

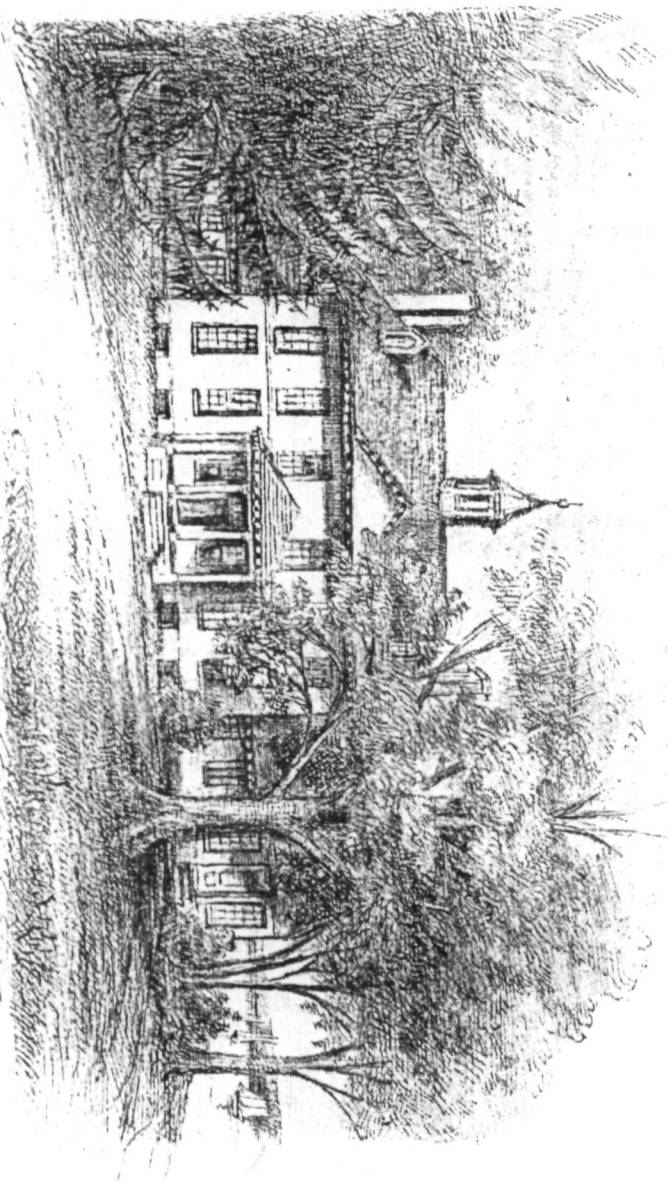
HIS EARLY MINISTRY.

1793-1799.

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I touch this old paper reverently. It is the commission of a faithful soldier of the Cross, who fought a good fight and entered into rest half a century ago, full of faith and good works. His was the first ordination by our first Bishop, who himself had been consecrated only six months before in Trinity Church, New York, September, 1792.

"This elevation to theiscopate," says Mr. Allen, "was the first instance of the national independence of the Church, showing that it had no longer need to seek consecration



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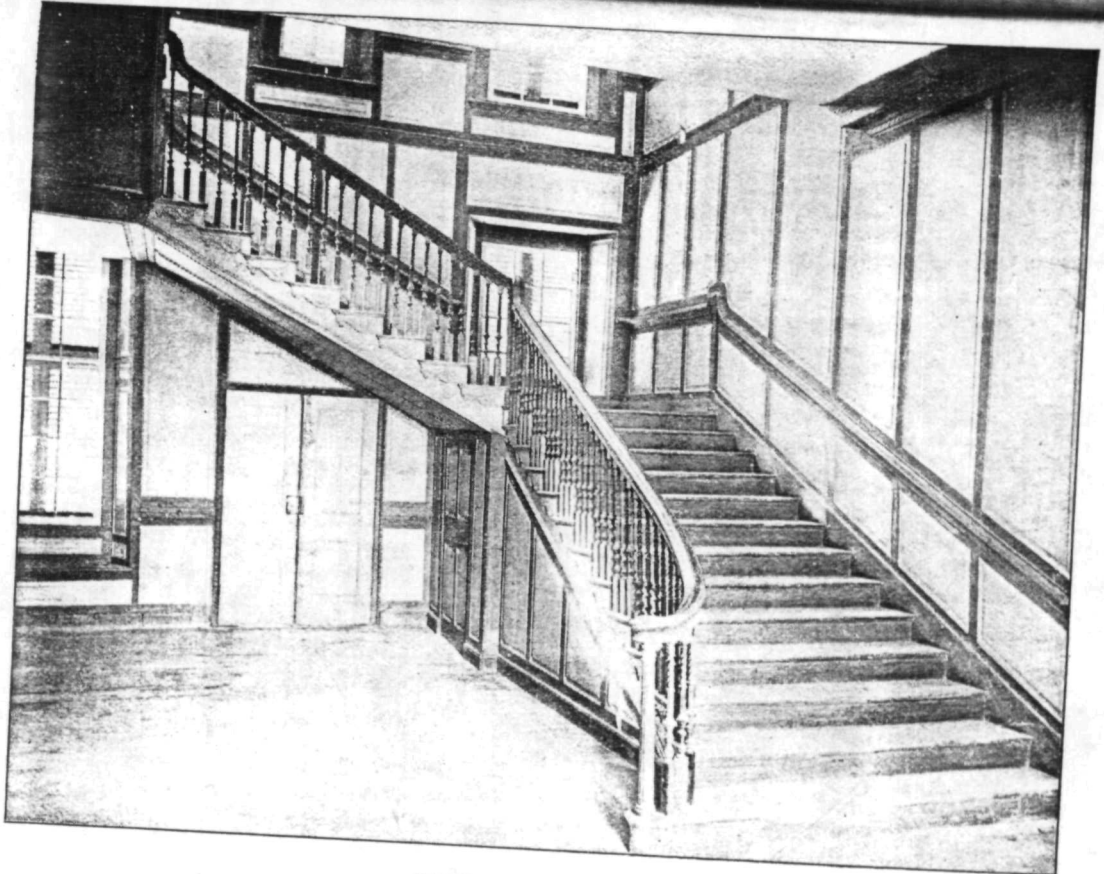
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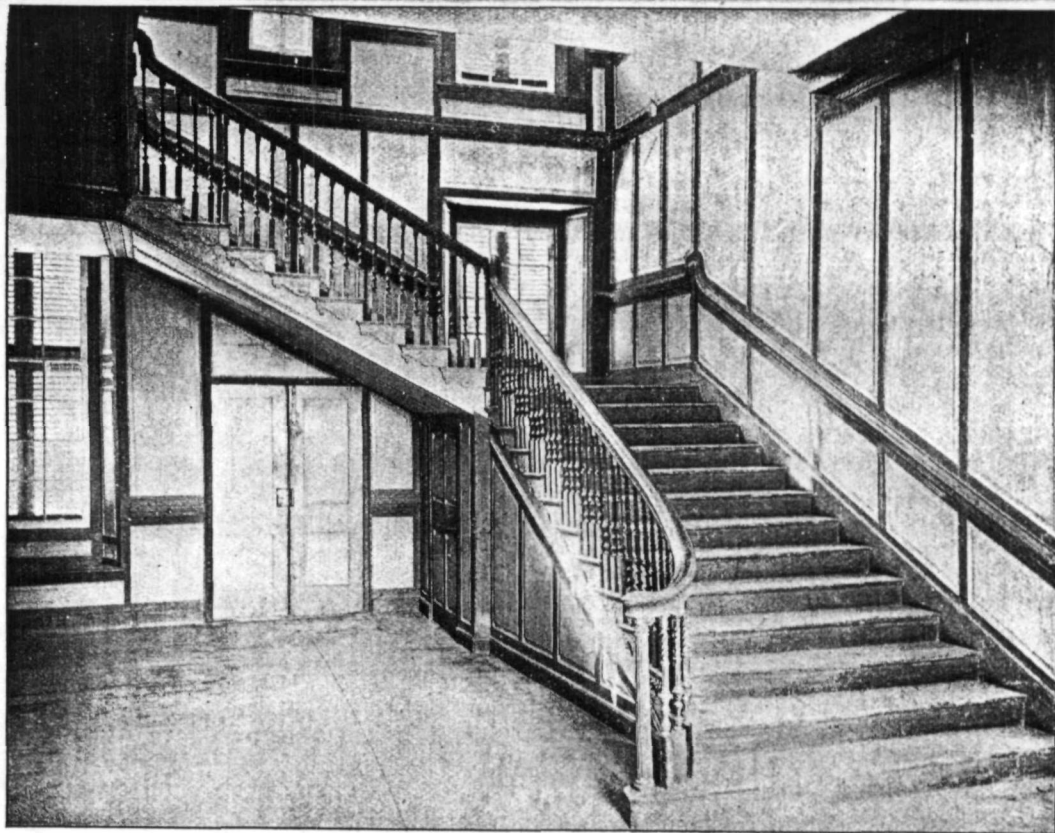


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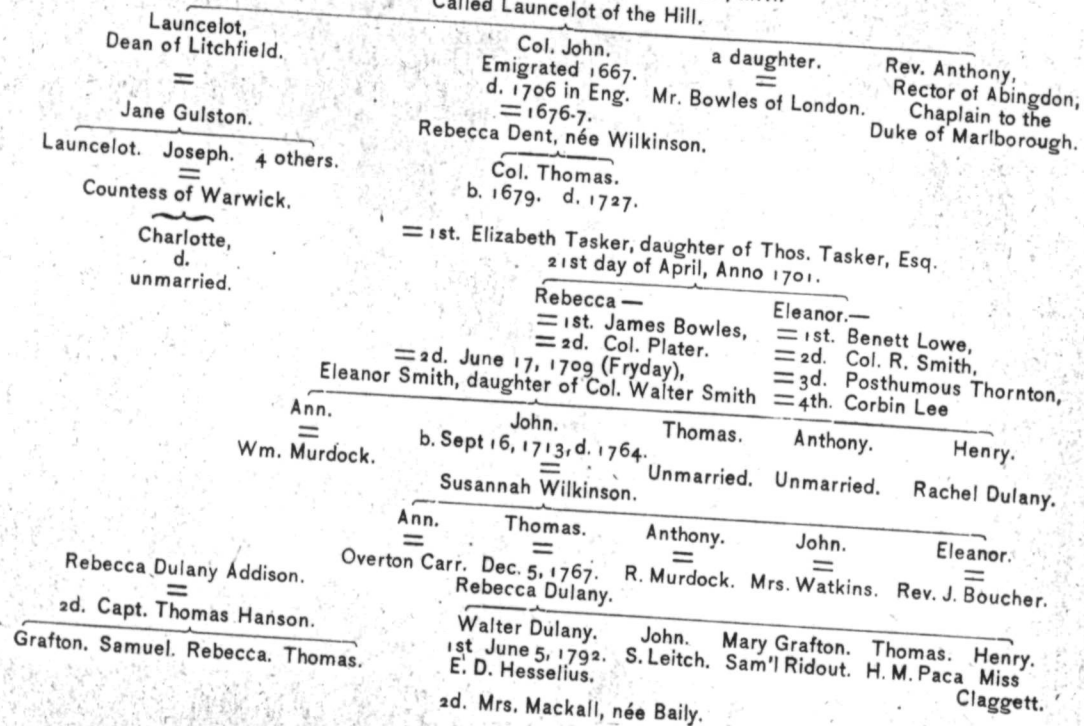


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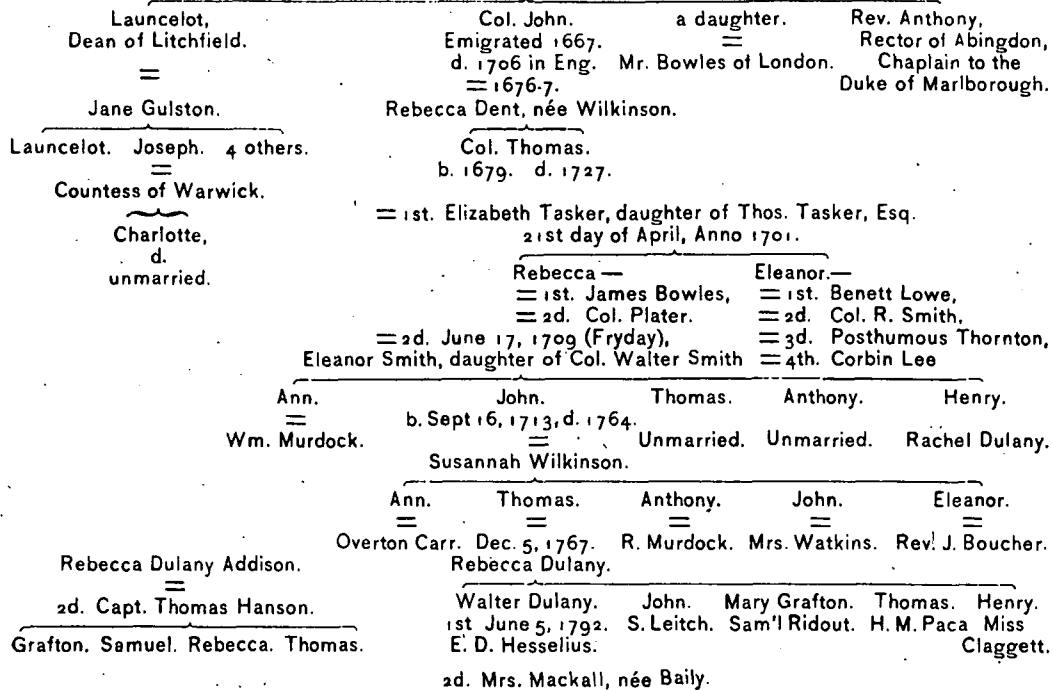
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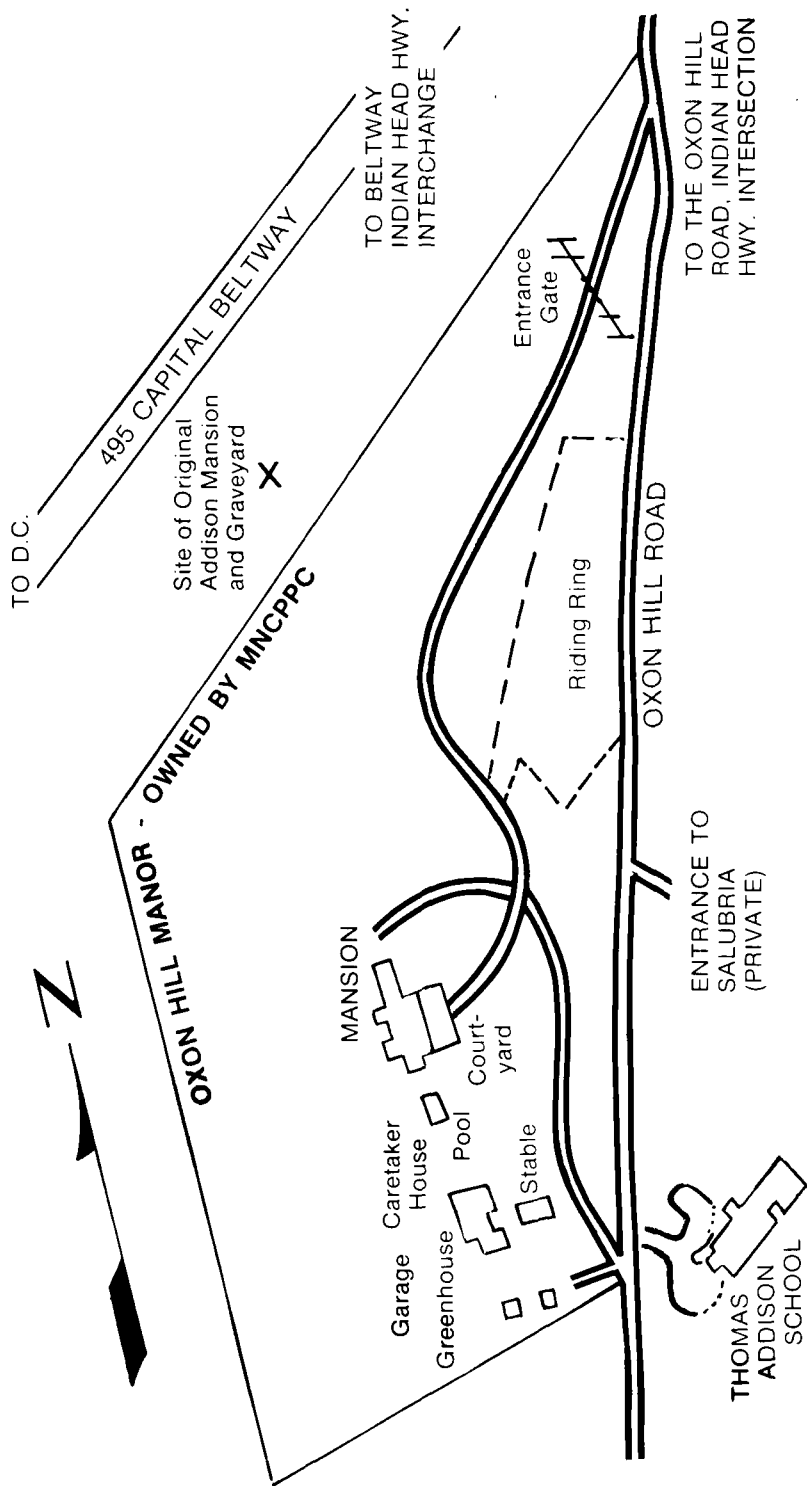
Oxon Hill Manor



In
Prince George's County
Maryland



**Main entrance to Oxon Hill Manor built by Jules-Henri de Sibour
for Sumner Welles in 1928.**



Dedication

With sincere appreciation, Oxon Hill Manor Foundation, Inc. dedicates this book to three persons, among many, who gave endless hours of their time and devotion towards making a dream come true—the restoration and preservation of OXON HILL MANOR.



Mary Fraser dePackh
Ann Hopper
George Price

CHRONOLOGY

Historical associations of Oxon Hill Manor fall primarily into three categories:

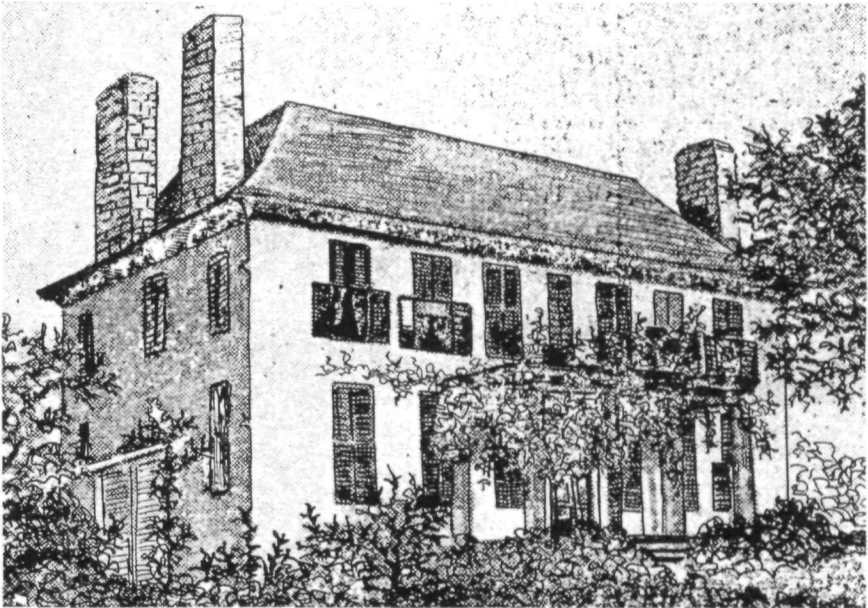
1. *The Addisons and their role in colonial Maryland.*
2. *John Hanson's death and possible burial on the property.*
3. *Sumner Welles' years at Oxon Hill, including reported Roosevelt visits to the estate.*

- 1685 John Addison, colonial merchant, acquired this land from Lord Baltimore.
- 1687 John Addison erected a frame house on the site that is now Bolling Air base.
- 1710 His son, Thomas, erected a brick house, the original "Oxon Hill Manor" adjacent to the present site.
- 1767 Thomas Addison, fourth owner and the grandson of Thomas Addison, patented 3,663 acres and called it Oxon Hill Manor.
- 1774 Thomas Addison died.
- 1778 Widow Addison married Thomas Hanson and lived in Oxon Hill Manor. (Thomas, nephew of John Hanson, first "President of the U.S. in Congress Assembled" under the Articles of Confederation.)
- 1783 John Hanson visited his nephew, Thomas, for purposes of recuperation. He died at Oxon Hill Manor on November 15, 1783 at the age of 68.
- 1785 Thomas Hanson then leased the mansion to Nathaniel Washington, cousin of George Washington.
- 1793 Reverend Walter D. Addison, last Addison owner of Oxon Hill Manor (inherited in 1774) took control. He was founder and the rector of St. John's Church in Georgetown and officiated at the funeral of George Washington.
- 1810 Oxon Hill Manor sold to Zachariah Berry.
- 1879 Trustees for the Berry family sold off property by lots.
- 1895 Original home destroyed by fire.

- 1927 Property (255 acres including site of original manor) purchased by Sumner Welles, Assistant Secretary of State.
- 1928 Neo-Georgian brick mansion built by Jules Henri de Sibour for Sumner Welles.
- 1933 Sumner Welles became Under Secretary of State under Cordell Hull during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- 1941- During this period President Roosevelt was a frequent
1945 visitor to the Manor. Many of the famous were guests during Sumner Welles' residency.
- 1952 Mr. Fred Maloof, entrepreneur and art dealer, acquired 55 acres of the Welles' estate. Planned to eventually establish the Manor House as the John Hanson Museum. Plans were never completed except for occasional tours just prior to his death in 1972.
- 1976 The 55-acre parcel owned by Mr. Maloof was purchased and deeded to the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission. Funds for this purchase was made available jointly by the Prince George's County Planning Board and Prince George's County Council.
- 1976 Oxon Hill Manor Association, Inc. was formed.
- 1977 Prince George's Planning Board agreed to lease the Manor House and 8 acres to a non-profit community foundation for the purpose of restoration, operation and maintenance.
- 1978 Oxon Hill Manor was entered on the historical register June, 1978.
- 1978 Maryland Legislature passed a bill providing \$300,000 for the restoration and rehabilitation of Oxon Hill Manor. Signed into law (SB 350) by acting Governor Blair Lee.
- 1979 The Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission leased a portion of the property to the Oxon Hill Manor Foundation, Inc. (formerly the Oxon

Hill Manor Association). The lease covers the Mansion and about 15 surrounding acres, including the pool and the gardens. A program has been developed for the restoration, renovation and future use of the leased property and action has been initiated to hire an architect. It is visualized that when the architect completes investigation and plans, actual renovation would commence; public use would become a reality in 1980.

- 1979 The Women's Committee of the National Symphony Orchestra has received special permission to use Oxon Hill Manor as their 1979 Decorators' Show Case House. Tours will begin in September and will continue through October.



1894 picture of Oxon Hill Manor built in 1711 by Col. Thomas Addison.

OXON HILL MANOR IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Colonel JOHN ADDISON was a member of a well-known family in England, and an uncle of the noted essayist JOSEPH ADDISON. In 1660 he helped Charles II become King of England. Subsequently, he formed a company which made trading voyages out of Liverpool. In 1667 he transferred the conduct of his business to St. Mary's City. Among his ventures he provided overseas passages for colonists, which gave him the right to large grants of land from Lord Baltimore. In 1685 he began taking claim to tracts along the Potomac, from Swan Creek to the Anacostia River. In 1687 he established his headquarters, and built a frame house, at the present location of Bolling Air Force Base. In 1710 his son, Colonel THOMAS ADDISON, built a brick house on the location called Oxon Hill. It was built on a ridge several hundred yards north of the location of the present house, a little south of the present location of the Beltway.

The third owner of the land was named JOHN ADDISON, for his grandfather, and the fourth owner was named THOMAS ADDISON, for his grandfather. The original grants by this time had diminished somewhat in size, and Thomas Addison, in 1767, patented 3,663 acres, about 5¾ square miles, calling it OXON HILL MANOR. Thomas Addison, died in 1774, and in 1778 his widow married THOMAS HANSON. The couple continued to live in the house until 1785, when they leased the manor to Nathaniel Washington, a relative of George Washington. During this period, George Washington placed his two orphaned nephews, George S. Washington, and Lawrence A. Washington, as boarders in the Oxon Hill Manor house.

JOHN HANSON ELECTED UNDER THE ARTICLES OF THE CONFEDERATION

During the Revolutionary War, the 13 colonies, one by one, became sovereign states. They were united in their opposition

to England, but were not actually united even though they sent representatives to the Continental Congresses. In 1777 the Second Continental Congress submitted to the several states the articles of Confederation; however, six states had claims on western land based on early grants from the Crown, Virginia had a large claim going west to the Mississippi, or possibly farther, and north nearly to the Great Lakes, JOHN HANSON, who had led the Maryland delegation, believed that the back lands ought to be a common stock, parcelled out by Congress into free, conveniently-sized, and independent units. Hanson visualized a country consisting of an increasing number of sovereign states, a position which time has shown to be supremely wise. Maryland, therefore, withheld ratification of the Articles until assurances were given that the western boundaries of certain states would be fixed by Congress, and the back lands would be laid out in states separate from the original 13 states. When these assurances were at last given in 1781 Maryland ratified, and a formal union was created. The United States came into being with the Articles of Confederation. For the part he had played in establishing the Union, John Hanson of Maryland was elected by the delegates to Congress as President of the United States, for a one-year term, on November 5, 1781. Several Presidents under the Articles of Confederation succeeded him until in 1788 the present U.S. Constitution replaced the Articles, and George Washington was elected the first President of the United States, under the Constitution, for a four-year term.

JOHN HANSON'S DEATH

In 1782 John Hanson, tired and ill, completed his term as President. He had lived through and been at the very heart of some tempestuous and trying times. In 1783, probably for purposes of recuperation, he visited his nephew Thomas Hanson, who was at the time the squire of Oxon Hill Manor. During his visit John Hanson, ex-president and patriot, died at the age of 68. It is probable that he is buried in the cemetery adjoining the old house site.

FIFTH ADDISON RESIDES AT MANOR

In 1793 the lease of Oxon Hill Manor to Nathaniel Washington was terminated, and the fifth Addison, Rev. WALTER ADDISON, took control. He had actually been the owner from the death of his father in 1774, but had been too young to assume his inheritance. He and his brother John, both young boys, are believed to have witnessed the burial of John Hanson in the Addison cemetery at the Manor. He was rector of the Broad Creek Church near Oxon Hill and later became the founder and a rector of St. John's Church in Georgetown. He was one of four clergymen who officiated at George Washington's funeral. In 1810 he sold the remaining portion of his estate, including the house, to Zachariah Berry. In 1879 trustees for the Berrys subdivided it and began selling off lots. By 1917 parts of the property had passed through many hands. However, the original house, built in 1710, had burned in 1895.

OXON HILL MANOR. RESIDENCE FOR SUMNER WELLES

In the mid-1920's, SUMNER WELLES bought 245 acres for \$110 an acre, including the site of the burned-out mansion. In 1927 he built the present brick house on the ridge south of the ridge on which the previous house had been built. The house was designed by Count Jules-Henri de Sibour, a well-known French architect. It is considered one of the finest modern examples of a Georgian brick house in America. In 1933 Sumner Welles became Assistant Secretary of State, and 1937, Under Secretary of State under Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was instrumental in promulgating the Good Neighbour policy toward Latin America, and assisted in laying the groundwork for what would become the United Nations organization. Welles accompanied Franklin D. Roosevelt when he met Prime Minister Winston Churchill at sea in August of 1941. President Roosevelt was a frequent visitor at Oxon Hill Manor, possible to get away from the pressures of his office, to use the swimming pool, and to enjoy a relaxing atmosphere. Winston Churchill was possibly a visitor. It is rumored that discus-

sions of the American invasion of Europe in World War II were held at the Manor. Many other notable and famous people were guests at the Manor during Sumner Welles' occupancy.

MANOR ART MUSEUM FOR TWENTY YEARS

In 1952 Fred Maloof acquired 55 acres of the Sumner Welles estate, including all the current buildings and land improvements of the estate. At about this same time, Wm. Ferguson acquired approximately 90 undeveloped acres, including the area on which were the ruins of the previous house and cemetery. The balance was taken for the Beltway.

MNCPPC PURCHASES OXON HILL MANOR AND LEASES TO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Mr. Maloof lived in the house until his death in 1972. From that time until 1976 the 55 acres were owned by two realty companies. The acres owned by Mr. Ferguson remained in his ownership. In September 1976 the 55-acre parcel previously owned by Mr. Maloof was purchased for \$750,000 and deeded to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

In August 1977, the Commission advertised for proposals to renovate, operate, and maintain the Manor House and 8 plus acres. Two proposals were received. After a number of public meetings, much investigation, and full discussions at two public hearings, on December 1, 1977, the Prince George's Planning Board agreed, in addition to some other particulars, to lease the Manor House and 8 acres to a non-profit community foundation for restoration, operation, and maintenance.

OXON HILL MANOR FOUNDATION, INC.

Prior to the acquisition of Oxon Hill Manor in 1976 an enthusiastic group of citizens, most of them Prince Georgians

and many of them residents of areas close to the Manor, urged public officials to purchase the property. In the halcyon days following the purchase of the property and execution of the lease, this group of citizens banded together into a more formal organization. In November 1976 they incorporated under the laws of Maryland as the Oxon Hill Manor Association.

The Association was formed to make and implement recommendations with respect to the preservation and public use of Oxon Hill Manor. In view of the lease at the time of the Association's founding, it considered its function as advisory and helpful. It could and did provide citizen input and offers of free citizen help in the restoration process. Although it was mainly advisory, it was not, however, precluded from becoming operational.

GRANT RECEIVED FOR RESTORATION OF MANOR

When the Maryland legislature convened January, 1978, Delegate Charles Blumenthal introduced a bill in the House of Delegates to provide \$300,000 for the restoration and rehabilitation of Oxon Hill Manor. Senator Pete Bozick introduced a companion bill in the Maryland Senate. The money would be raised from a bond issue by the State of Md. and the funds made available to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The bills were passed by the legislative bodies, and became law when SB 350 was signed by Acting Governor Blair Lee on May 29th.

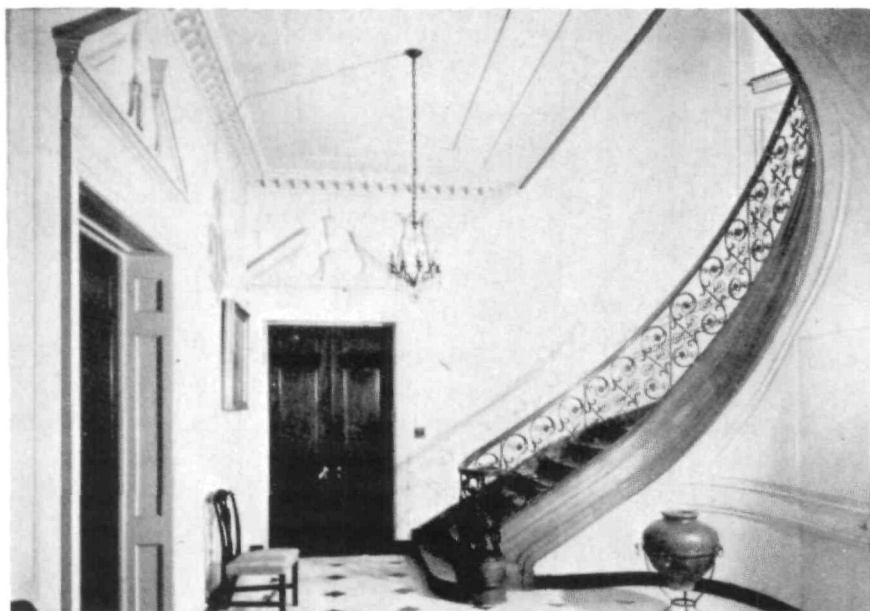
Oxon Hill Manor was placed on the historical register in June of 1978.



View from West Terrace at Oxon Hill Manor which overlooks the Potomac.



Entrance Foyer at Oxon Hill Manor.



Stairway at Oxon Hill Manor leading to upper floor.



Library at Oxon Hill Manor during the Sumner Welles occupancy.

OXON HILL MANOR

It is hard to imagine a more beautiful situation than that occupied by Oxon Hill Manor, overlooking the Potomac River, on a ridge eight miles south of the nation's capitol—a noted Maryland home. The estate is historic, but the fine brick neo-Georgian house was designed for Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles, by the noted Washington architect Jules-Henri de Sibour, and was completed in 1929.

The winding driveway off Oxon Hill Road leads through majestic trees, to open lawns and through distinctive gates and courtyard to the Manor. Tall brick pillars support stone pineapples and carriage lanterns. A beautiful wrought iron gate leads from the courtyard to the south gardens and terrace, which overlooks a large swimming pool. The Manor is built of brick, with brick quoins and white painted wood trim around doors and windows and roof cornices. Above the entrance door is a terra cotta shield bearing the motto "Dieu je dois tout: (I owe all to God). The Manor contains 49 rooms, five of which are the reception rooms, the proportions of which are so perfect that the house was placed on the list of outstanding architectural examples in the State of Maryland in 1977.

The entrance doors open into a spacious foyer with an elaborately carved mantle and black and white marble floor in the Italian manner. Double oak doors on either side of the fireplace open into the Library. To the left of the foyer is the ballroom running the full depth of the house. The south wall is broken by a huge Louis XV fireplace with French doors on either side which overlook the terrace, gardens and swimming pool.

Double doors open from the north side of the drawing room into the Library panelled in warm pine with intricately carved molding and a mantelpiece of carved pine in the Georgian style.

Adjoining this room, is the great dining room which, along with the library and the end of the ballroom, overlooks the river. The dining room walls are divided into panels by half-round moldings of spirally wrapped open ribbon pattern. Eight large panels are papered with hand-painted chinese

watercolours. The fireplace is in the Louis XV style with carved shell keyblock.

A long lateral hall continues from the main foyer between Mr. Welles' study on the right and the dining room on the left, to end at the graceful curving staircase with its patterned wrought-iron baluster.

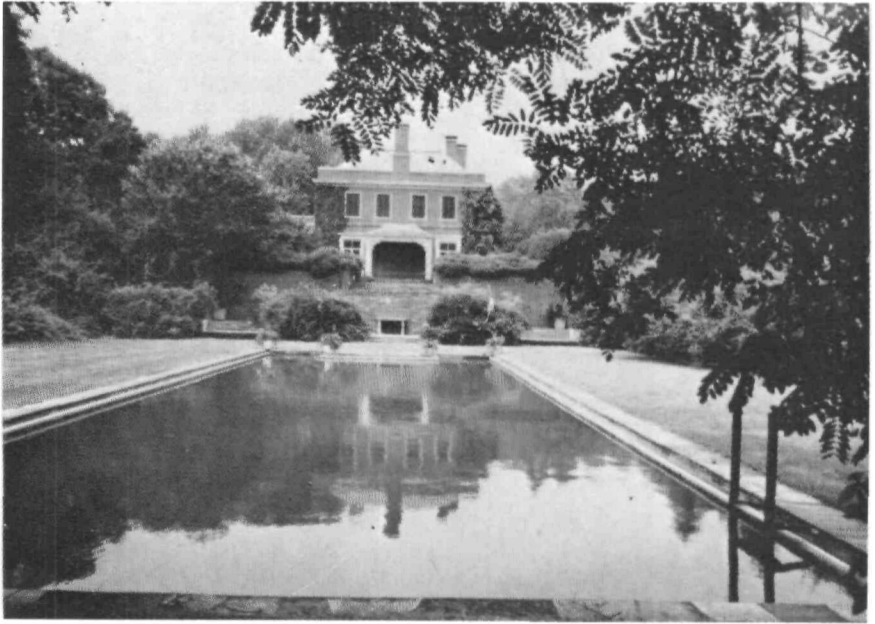
The upper floor consists of six bed chambers each with its own bathroom, fireplace, and large closet. The chambers on the north and south corners of the west side of the house have access to the roof of the porches through French doors. All rooms are entered from a spacious hall which has a continuous row of cedar lined storage closets. A small sewing room is to the left of the stairs.

The service wing is a three-story 79 ft. long unit that contains large storage rooms, a wine cellar, incinerator, and two servants' rooms with bath and large lounging room in the basement. The ground floor includes the kitchen, pantry, cold room and silver safe, flower room and laundry and the servants' hall and toilet. On the upper floor there are eight maids' rooms with a bath and four mens' rooms with a bath and a segregated corridor. There are also sewing rooms and linen closets. These floors are connected vertically with a stair and elevator.

Magnificent Louis XV chandeliers hang from the ceiling of the entrance foyer and the stair-hall.

Oxon Hill has had a rich and colorful history that spans the years of Colonial Maryland right up to the space age. From the time this land was first acquired in 1685, it has witnessed the Addisons and their role in early Maryland, John Hanson's death and rumored burial on the property, and Sumner Welles years at the Manor including visits by President Roosevelt.

These unique edifices deserve preservation to allow our "re-living" its greatness today and into future generations.



View from South Terrace at Oxon Hill Manor.



Terraced gardens at Oxon Hill Manor during Sumner Welles occupancy.

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